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76ERS SEASON AT A CROSSROADS

Can they learn to close games? Will they be active at deadline? 27-28

Why pay parking tickets? 4

Valentine's Day can be a great first date. 24-25

THE SUPER ANTI-HERO

With 'Deadpool,' Ryan Reynolds gives you more than your usual comic book movie. 20

You can't see him, but that's Ryan Reynolds, playing a masked avenger out to kill the people who destroyed his life in the comedic Marvel movie "Deadpool." JOE LEDERER

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FILLMORE DUI CRASH

1 A DUI suspect crashed into a popular Fishtown music venue. Just after 2 a.m. Thursday, a driver crashed a Mazda sedan into the exit doors of the Fillmore Philadelphia on East Allen Street. No concerts were scheduled at the time. The driver was treated for minor injuries at Hahnemann Hospital, according to CBS. JASON NUCKOLLS

JUSTIN BLASI/METROPHOTO

KERRY: ALL OR NOTHING

2 Major powers were beginning a new round of Syria peace talks focusing on calls for a cease-fire and access for humanitarian aid. But with the Syrian opposition saying it cannot accept a truce in the current climate because it does not trust the Russians, diplomats saw little chance of progress at discussions in the German city of Munich. A Western diplomat told Reuters that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry wanted an immediate cease-fire in Syria – "All or nothing" – although the Russians have proposed a truce from the beginning of next month. REUTERS

MASSACRE TRIAL DELAYED

3 A judge delayed the federal trial for Dylann Roof, the man accused of shooting dead nine parishioners at a black church in Charleston last June after federal prosecutors said the government remained undecided on seeking the death penalty. It could be until April before a decision is announced. REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

7
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW
YOU CAN NEVER WEAR TOO MANY LAYERS
7 Cyclists battle sub-freezing temperatures and arctic winds in Center City Philadelphia.
CHARLES MOSTOLLER

NATO LAUNCHES MISSION

4 NATO ships are on their way to the Aegean Sea to help Turkey and Greece crack down on criminal networks smuggling refugees into Europe. Hours after NATO defense ministers agreed to use their maritime force in the eastern Mediterranean to help combat traffickers, Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Breedlove said he was working quickly to design the mission. REUTERS

NATO

CAB DRIVER SLASHED

5 An investigation into the slashing and robbery of a cab driver in Queens Village is underway. The incident happened around midnight Wednesday near the intersection of 4th and Catharine streets. Cab driver Jaswant Mann picked up a fare who then threatened him with a knife. After the man pulled a knife on Mann, there was a struggle which left his hand slashed. The robber fled with $70. Mann went to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital to have his wound treated, where investigators met him and searched his car for evidence. MATT LEE

EX-PASTOR ARRAIGNED

6 Former Chester County pastor and current accused rapist Jacob Malone, 33, was formally arraigned Thursday on 11 charges including sexual assault, Philly.com reported. Malone is accused of raping and impregnating a teenage girl who lived with him and his family and abusing the victim over a period of several years and across several states, according to FOX 29. MATT LEE

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MARKETPLACE | EVENTS

A vehicle in Center City Philadelphia was ticketed by the PPA. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Bill would forgive old parking tickets

Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell's bill would give amnesty to parking tickets in Philadelphia after three years, but Council support is uncertain.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

City Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell introduced a bill Thursday morning that would offer complete forgiveness to parking-ticket holders who've gone delinquent on their bills for three years or more.

"We think that the city and the school district could get more money if we could take back parking authority bills to three years, 'cause then people could see an end to them," she said.

Language in the ordinance establishes an amnesty program for all fines, fees and penalties on parking violations issued three years ago or more. If passed, it would go into effect immediately.

"I think that people will pay because they know they can get past this and they can pay their bills and start all over, but when you have so many old bills that it bothers your credit, people just give up because they don't know how to solve it," said Blackwell.

This could mean a fight for the councilwoman, however. Her goal is to incentivize those ticketed to pay up, but the Philadelphia Parking Authority is already strapped for cash, and not looking to absorb any more costs.

Vince Fenerty, executive director of the PPA, declined to comment until he had spoken with the councilwoman. As of Thursday afternoon, he had not seen a copy of the bill.

Blackwell said she's not yet sure she has support of the bill from her colleagues on Council.

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UberX protesters CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Anti-Uber protests snarl Center City traffic

Cab drivers blocked up the streets around City Hall Thursday to protest the ongoing illegal use of Uber services in Philly.

Cab drivers licensed by the Philadelphia Parking Authority (PPA) have demanded the city increase enforcement of unlicensed UberX drivers providing cab services, which they say is destroying their business.

The last such protest was just six weeks ago, demonstrating cabbies' increasing anger with the situation.

Even Uber Black drivers, who are licensed like PPA drivers and provide a higher-end Uber service, have joined with the PPA to protest UberX. Some Uber Black drivers have even sued Uber over the cheaper competition they face from UberX.

Legislation to legalize UberX in Philadelphia is tied up on its way through the legislative process in Harrisburg.

Thursday's protest caused major traffic delays around Center City.

SAM NEWHOUSE

i

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Kenney ends PFD brownouts

The mayor ended fire department brownouts, reversing the former mayor's efforts in cutting overtime costs.

JENNY DEHUFF
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Mayor Jim Kenney reversed a decision held over eights years by his predecessor in abruptly ending fire department brownouts Thursday afternoon.

"Eight years ago, when our economy collapsed, the fire department was forced to make a difficult decision about how to maintain public safety while facing unavoidable budget cuts," Kenney said. "Today ... We have formally ended brownouts in the Philadelphia Fire Department."

A 60-page audit conducted by City Controller Alan Butkovitz's office found that brownouts – the temporary closure of firehouses – used during Mayor Michael Nutter's administration to cut overtime costs during tough economic times only exacerbated the fire department's already underachieving response to fire emergencies.

Adding insult to injury, the brownouts ended up costing the city nearly $20 million in overtime.

At the time, Nutter faced backlash from firefighters who were put on a rotating schedule and reassigned elsewhere.

Despite the brownouts, there were only 12 fire-related deaths in 2015, a 63 percent reduction from the 32 in 2014.

The National Fire Protection Association standard calls for the first fire engines to arrive on scene within five minutes and 20 seconds after being dispatched to a fire. According to Butkovitz's audit, they were unable to meet that time 90 percent of the time.

The city has formally ended brownouts in the Philadelphia Fire Department. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

"Every second counts when it comes to saving lives and saving property in the event of a fire," said Butkovitz.

Gathered together for the announcement Thursday, Fire Commissioner Derrick Sawyer, Butkovitz and Kenney all seemed pleased with the decision.

"This means that every single company will be in service," said Sawyer.

"So there will no longer be a process where we're putting a company out of service for a shift or for a day to save money. There also won't be any forced rotations for 2016."

Andrew Thomas, president of the firefighters' union Local 22, said that Philadelphians should see shorter response times in the event of fires.

"Our members should get there quicker. I think there is some data strategies that work against the fire department in that, when they say that a company was on scene, it may have been a company without a water supply, or a ladder company that shouldn't be entering a structure fire without water," he said.

"I think the mayor and the new administration have demonstrated very quickly they have a real understanding of the burdens and the risks facing our firefighters and facing the public."

Butkovitz

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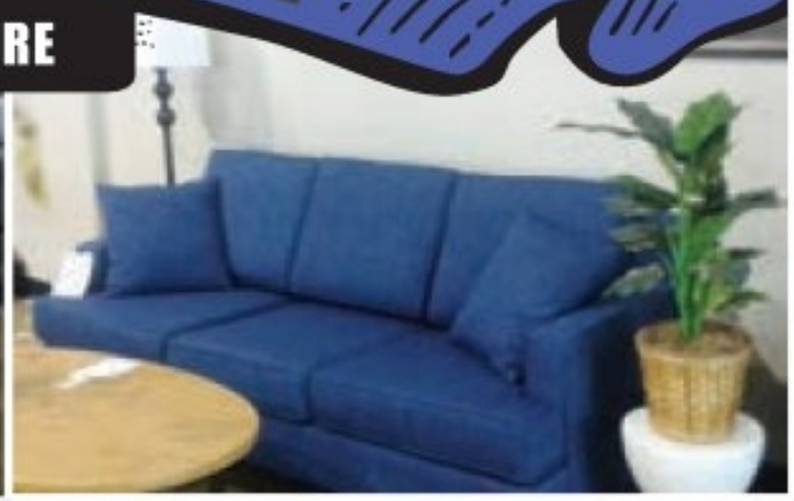

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Retired FBI agent kicks off new podcast

Jerri Williams is a former SEPTA spokeswoman. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Jerri Williams, the former head spokeswoman for SEPTA, a retired FBI agent and an aspiring crime fiction novelist, is now venturing into podcasts.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Equipped with an iPhone, a retired female FBI agent has ventured into the world of podcasts with a new series about criminal investigations.

Former SEPTA spokeswoman Jerri Williams, who spent 26 years with the FBI, may not have an elaborate studio setup beyond the iPhone and produces her own podcast. But while trying to sell her first crime fiction book, she has turned her investigative talents in retirement to hosting her own new podcast in which she discusses major investigations with other retired agents.

"I just did this on my own. I didn't do any research to see if anybody else was doing it," Williams said. "I just realized I could do a podcast and interview retired agents, because their cases would all have been adjudicated."

In the first few podcasts online so far, Williams talks to a Philly native and retired Behavioral Analysis Unit profiler who worked the Unabomber and D.C. sniper cases; a retired female agent who spent 30 years mostly on drug investigations; and an agent whose investigations of crimes from bank robbery to corruption took him from New York to Puerto Rico.

"I have a curiosity, which is probably why I became an FBI agent, to ask questions and learn things," Williams said. "That's what we do at the FBI: talk to people, interview them and try to get information out of them."

The new podcast is the latest foray into new work for Williams, who just retired from SEPTA last year.

She said she hasn't missed her old job at SEPTA yet. The recent snowstorm was the first one in years where she didn't have to stay in the office overnight.

She is still trying with her agent to sell her first novel, "Pay to Play," to a publisher, and considering self-publishing, while hoping to get progress made on her second book.

"It's extremely competitive," she said.

Looking back into the work of her former FBI colleagues from around the country is especially satisfying for Williams as one of the first women to work at the FBI.

"I came in about six years after women had been allowed to be in the bureau," Williams said. "My first five years ... were kind of rough. I did find some resistance. But after that, absolutely none."

"I spent most of my career doing fraud and corruption, Ponzi schemes, bank schemes, and I was good at it. That's the most important thing for agents – is the agent pulling his or her weight? If they are, there really is no issue, no problem."

Visit jerriwilliams.com or search "FBI Retired Case File Review with Jerri Williams" on iTunes or Stitcher to hear Williams' podcast.

"I have a curiosity, which is probably why I became an FBI agent, to ask questions and learn things."
Williams

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G, Einstein was right

Einstein's gravitational waves detected in scientific milestone

Scientists have for the first time detected gravitational waves, ripples in space and time hypothesized by Albert Einstein a century ago, in a landmark discovery announced on Thursday that opens a new window for studying the cosmos.

The researchers said they detected gravitational waves coming from two distant black holes—extraordinarily dense objects whose existence also was foreseen by Einstein—that orbited one another, spiraled inward and smashed together. They said the waves were the product of a collision between two black holes roughly 30 times the mass of the sun, located 1.3 billion light years from Earth.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have detected gravitational waves. We did it," said California Institute of Technology physicist David Reitze, triggering applause at a packed news conference in Washington.

"It's been a very long road, but this is just the beginning," Louisiana State University physicist Gabriela Gonzalez told the news conference, touting the opening of a new era in astronomy.

The scientific milestone was achieved using a pair of giant laser detectors in the United States, located in Louisiana and Washington state, capping a decades-long quest to find these waves.

"The colliding black holes that produced these gravitational waves created a violent storm in the fabric of space and time, a storm in which time speeded up, and slowed down, and speeded up again, a storm in which the shape of space was bent in this way and that way," Caltech physicist Kip Thorne said.

The two laser instruments, which work in unison, are known as the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO). They were able to detect remarkably small vibrations from passing gravitational waves. After detecting the gravitational wave signal, the scientists said they converted it into audio waves and were able to listen to the sounds of the two black holes merging.

"We're actually hearing them go thump in the night," Massachusetts Institute of Technology physicist Matthew Evans said. "We're getting a signal which arrives at Earth, and we can put it on a speaker, and we can hear these black holes go, 'Whoop.' There's a very visceral connection to this observation."

The scientists said they first detected the gravitational waves last Sept. 14.

"We are really witnessing the opening of a new tool for doing astronomy," MIT astrophysicist Nergis Mavalvala said in an interview. "We have turned on a new sense. We have been able to see and now we will be able to hear as well." REUTERS

"The holy grail of science"

Scientists said gravitational waves open a door for a new way to observe the universe and gain knowledge about enigmatic objects like black holes and neutron stars. By studying gravitational waves they also hope to gain insight into the nature of the very early universe, which has remained mysterious.

Everything we know about the cosmos stems from electromagnetic waves such as radio waves, visible light, infrared light, X-rays and gamma rays. But because such waves encounter interference as they travel across the universe, they can tell only part of the story.

Gravitational waves experience no such barriers, meaning they can offer a wealth of additional information. Black holes, for example, do not emit light, radio waves and the like, but can be studied via gravitational waves.

The scientists said that because gravitational waves are so radically different from electromagnetic waves they expect them to reveal big surprises about the universe.

Scientists sounded positively giddy over the discovery.

"This is the holy grail of science," said Rochester Institute of Technology astrophysicist Carlos Lousto.

David Reitze announces that scientists have observed ripples in the fabric of space-time called gravitational waves for the first time, confirming a prediction of Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. GETTY IMAGES

Einstein's theory

Einstein in 1916 proposed the existence of gravitational waves as an outgrowth of his ground-breaking general theory of relativity, which depicted gravity as a distortion of space and time triggered by the presence of matter. But until now scientists had found only indirect evidence of their existence.

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DEMOCRATS, LET'S GET IN FORMATION

THE ERNEST OPINION

ERNEST OWENS
@MrErnestOwens

While my fellow liberals on social media relished rubbing in my face Bernie Sanders' margin of victory over Hillary Clinton in the New Hampshire Democratic primary — my frustration was directed somewhere else.

Real Clinton followers expected this to happen, because New Hampshire might as well be Vermont given how close the states are to one another.

But what startled me most about the primary was seeing Sanders' "revolution" gain momentum among Democrats, another revolutionary reigned supreme in the GOP.

Donald Trump won a presidential primary. It's time for us to get serious right now.

I can't even laugh at his gaffes or try to ignore his prowess anymore.

Democrats right now are too busy taking cheap shots at each other over who's more progressive. The conversation has gone from a sincere intellectual debate to a petty indictment of racial communities and their voting habits. I'm sorry, but my black vote going to Hillary isn't me being brainwashed by "the establishment."

It's actually my personal understanding of dealing with a real-time crisis and shooting for immediate results. Voting for Hillary doesn't make me, an openly gay black millennial, not progressive.

Sanders supporters' litmus test on measuring such progressiveness doesn't account for what it actually is—progress, which is relative. Instead, those who have tried to divide the party on these matters have distorted history in order to make a point.

When folks say Hillary wasn't initially in favor of gay marriage in the late '90s, neither were many of your favorite liberal politicians, including President Obama. Even pop culture was dredged in homophobic content that wouldn't fly in today's times. But now many liberals are trying to point out a racial divide in the party.

It's time for Democrats to reevaluate how they publicly bash their potential presidential candidates and play fair. Otherwise, we can lose it all.

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South Korea made 'declaration of war': North Korea

South Korea moved to suspend operations at the Kaesong industrial zone in response to the North's rocket launch.

North Korea said it was kicking out all South Koreans from the jointly run Kaesong industrial zone on Thursday, calling the South's move to suspend operations, in retaliation for Sunday's rocket launch by the North, a "declaration of war."

The North declared the industrial park, run by the rivals as a symbol of cooperation for more than a decade, a military control zone, the agency that handles its ties with Seoul said, according to the official KCNA news agency.

South Korean protesters attend an anti-North Korea rally on Thursday in Seoul, South Korea. GETTY IMAGES

55K
NORTH KOREANS EMPLOYED IN THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE

Dozens of South Korean trucks were already returning across the border earlier in the day, laden with goods and equipment, after the South said it was pulling out.

"Unpardonable is the puppet group's act of totally suspending the operation in [Kaesong], finding fault with the DPRK's H-bomb test and launch of a satellite," the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea said, referring to South Korea.

Isolated North Korea regularly dismisses the South as a puppet of the United States and just as regularly accuses both of acts of war against it.

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. North Korea tested what it said was a hydrogen bomb on Jan. 6 and on Sunday launched a rocket, putting a satellite into orbit. REUTERS

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WHY IS HILLARY KEEPING HER SPEECHES SO SECRET?

THE FOREMAN OPINION

TOM FOREMAN

Let's do the math. Hillary Clinton has been paid $21.6 million dollars for 92 speeches in the past few years. That's roughly $235,000 per appearance. An hour at each event would be $3,917 a minute. At 160 words per minute, that's about $24 per word.

So, "Hi, I am Hillary Clinton. Thank you for having me here tonight," equals $288 — or just about a week's work at minimum wage. And her campaign wonders why people are curious about what she said in those speeches.

But when pressed to release transcripts — especially of her speeches to the big banking firms she promises to be tough on — her answer in the most recent Democratic candidates' debate was: "I will look into it."

Her campaign's handling of this whole matter seems to be the political equivalent of smearing yourself with Nutella and jumping into a cage of howler monkeys. Why? First, when your Democratic opponent is not so subtly suggesting you are deep in the pocket of Wall Street, you don't want to be caught carrying a suitcase full of cash out of a private meeting with the little Monopoly-player-men — even metaphorically.

Second, when you just got ripped in New Hampshire, in part because many voters don't exactly trust you, you can't make it look like you're hiding something.

And third, when you're pounding on the idea that income disparity is a serious issue, it's hard to hear you when the chartered Gulf Stream is revving its engines to take you home.

Clinton insists that there were no shenanigans; she did not exchange favors or influence for those whopping checks.

She gave her speeches, ate some chicken and went on her way. Fair enough. So far there is no evidence to suggest otherwise.

But why she took any money from such groups while even flirting with a possible presidential bid is baffling.

The optics are simply a mess. Advice to Camp Clinton: You're looking into it? Look a little faster. Because a lot of people, including many of your fans, can already tell you it doesn't look good.

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Last four occupiers surrender in Oregon

The final four holdouts in an armed protest at a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon surrendered Thursday, with the last occupier repeatedly threatening suicide before he walked out, ending the 41-day standoff with the FBI.

David Fry, 27, had remained behind for more than an hour and told supporters by phone he had not agreed with the other three to leave. The phone conversation was broadcast live on an audio feed.

"I'm actually pointing a gun at my head, I'm tired of living," Fry said during the phone call. He later added, "Until you address my grievances, you're probably going to have to watch me be killed, or kill myself."

Fry finally surrendered and authorities could be heard over the phone line telling him to put his hands up before the call disconnected.

Portland's KGW television later showed a caravan of sport utility vehicles escorted by police driving out of the refuge in remote eastern Oregon.

The FBI said the final four occupiers had surrendered. The takeover at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, which began Jan. 2, was sparked by the return to prison of two Oregon ranchers convicted of setting fires that spread to federal property in the vicinity of the refuge.

The standoff, originally led by brothers Ammon and Ryan Bundy, came to a head after the arrest Wednesday in Portland of their father, Cliven Bundy, 74. On Thursday he was charged with conspiracy, assault on a federal officer and obstruction of justice in connection with a separate 2014 standoff on federal land near his Nevada ranch.

Clive Bundy GETTY IMAGES

Ammon and Ryan Bundy had been arrested in January along with nine other protesters on a snow-covered roadside where a spokesman for the group, Robert "LaVoy" Finicum, was shot dead. The Malheur occupation had also been a protest against federal control over millions of acres public land in the West.

REUTERS

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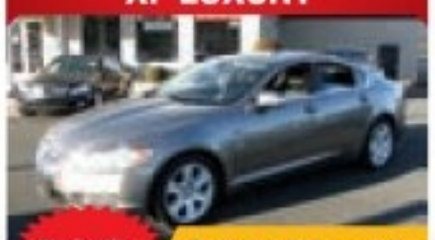
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wknd

Ryan Reynolds is done with *superheroes*

Behind that mask lurks Ryan Reynolds, who plays a man turned into a hideous but indestructible superhero in "Deadpool." JOE LEDERER

THE FUN STARTS HERE

But he's definitely into "Deadpool," which isn't your typical comic book movie.

LUBA EGOROVA
Metro World News
letters@metro.us

You might not remember it but Ryan Reynolds has played reluctant avenging superhero Wade Wilson, aka Deadpool, before. The character popped up briefly in "X-Men Origins: Wolverine." But that film was serious, whereas the new "Deadpool" is not. Over the years the actor, 39, has expanded his range and played dramatic roles in films such as "Buried" and "Mississippi Grind." With "Deadpool" he brings back the quipping Reynolds of "Two Girls and a Pizza Place" and "Just Friends," cracking jokes as his comic book star lays waste to the people who transformed him from an everyguy into a deformed, indestructible freak hidden under a cool suit and mask.

This seems like a role that really brings the best out of you.
I humbly agree! It's the role I've been most passionate about. I love everything about that boy! I am very grateful that I was given a chance to do this movie. I didn't think I ever would.

You spend most of the movie with a mask over your face. It can be difficult, it seems, to act when your most expressive feature is concealed.
Yes, it is. At first I was scared, because I thought, how are we going to tell the story? We had the option to take off the mask a lot more. But we found that we could push through the mask pretty well. I could express myself much better than I thought I could.

Have you ever wanted to become an avenger like Deadpool? Have you ever wanted to kill someone?
Wow! Kill? I never wanted to kill someone in real life, but I've wanted to come really close to that. I usually just say how I feel. If you're honest, you sleep better at night compared to when you're pretending to like someone. If someone's mean or awful, I'll just say, "You're f—king mean." ... That's good for them and good for me. I never wanted to take someone's life — not yet, at least.

You played Hal Jordan in "Green Lantern." Who would win: him or Deadpool?
I suppose that Deadpool would anger Green Lantern so much that he would use his magic ring to commit suicide.

Will there be other Deadpool movies? And would you continue to play him?
I've been Deadpool for 11 years already. It's my alter ego. That's why I took the movie. Even my wife [Blake Lively] sometimes asks, "Who am I talking to: Ryan or Deadpool?" So I would play Deadpool for as long as I can walk. He'd probably look strange in a wheelchair. I don't know whether there will be more films about Deadpool. If we get a chance to shoot something, I hope we keep it in the same style. We do not have the same budget as they did on "The Avengers." Although if you compare them, "Deadpool" does not look worse. It is possible to make films with less money.

At first, the studio didn't want to shoot the film. You made a test video, which somehow reached the Internet. After watching it, fans persuaded the studio to shoot "Deadpool." Are you the man behind the leak?
I know such rumors exist. But the truth is that I did not leak it.

GETTY IMAGES

Are there other major superhero characters you would like to play?
I will never play another superhero again. I'm done. You have to make room for other actors.

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Dakota Johnson and Rebel Wilson are gleefully unattached in "How to Be Single." BARRY WETCHER

"How to Be Single"

Director: Christian Ditter
Stars: Dakota Johnson, Rebel Wilson
Rating: R

●●○○○

"Deadpool" and "How to Be Single" don't have much in common. One's a Marvel romp, the other a rowdy rom-com. But they share one major trait: They're both self-aware genre entries that say they're different but secretly totally aren't. "Single" openly brags about being an anti-rom-com — an antidote to all those movies, like "Bridget Jones," and shows, like "Sex and the City," that look down on solitary characters, pitying them for foolishly never locating their soulmate.

Of course, it's definitely that kind of movie, based on a novel by the author of no less than "He's Just Not That Into You," which was also turned into a movie touting tough-love credentials before collapsing into happy endings. "Single" is tougher than that, at least allowing its characters — Johnson's Alice, Leslie Mann's workaholic doctor, plus a smarmy bartender (Anders Holm) who's got commitmentphobia down to a science — to enjoy random hookups, at least until it turns around and reminds us that love conquers all.

"Single" turns into a movie about finding one's self, so of course it can't figure out what it is. Luckily, it's usually either an engagingly dirty comedy or a warm comfort-food romance. And yet it's always inching toward a paean to the solitary life, which it only half believes is healthy. MATT PRIGGE

"Green Lantern" star Ryan Reynolds gets a second chance to launch a comic book franchise with the intentionally funny "Deadpool." JOE LEDERER

"Deadpool"

Director: Tim Miller
Stars: Ryan Reynolds, Morena Baccarin
Rating: R

●●○○○

A Marvel movie for those who think they're sick of Marvel movies but aren't really, "Deadpool" is as epically pleased with itself as Ryan Reynolds' lead performance. It proudly flaunts its depravities — bad words, head shots — like a cat sitting next to milk it keeps spilling. Where "Ant-Man" only gently nudged weary conventions, "Deadpool" goes full throttle into attack mode, with a character who breaks the fourth wall to mock Marvel movies directly.

Throughout this origin story (see, it's not so different after all!), Reynolds' Wade Wilson contracts cancer and winds up transformed by a sadistic mad scientist (Ed Skrein) into an unkillable but deformed monster. But even at his worst, Wilson/Deadpool never passes up an opportunity to prance or to turn his head to the camera, midshoot-out, to crack, "S—, did I leave the gas on?"

If you find that joke gut-busting rather than just mildly humorous, then you'll love "Deadpool," whose every pore teems with easy, oft-bro-ish jokes. Marvel oversaturation makes it easy to overrate a comic book movie that cares about every square inch of its script — one that's going out of its way to entertain in all caps. It's a film so cocksure about being the best movie ever that even its affable bits start to seem suspect. MP

"Zoolander 2," with Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson, makes jokes about how lame it is. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

"Zoolander 2"

Director: Ben Stiller
Stars: Ben Stiller, Owen Wilson
Rating: PG-13

●●○○○

There are scores of jokes in "Zoolander 2" about making a sequel to a movie so old the kids entering first grade then are about to start paying back their college debt. There are no jokes, however, about it being a standard lazy sequel — the kind that brings back the stuff that worked for a tired retread while adding little that's new.

Released in 2001, the first "Zoolander" was the kind of comedy where a handful of strong bits helped one forget the surrounding mediocrity. The original boasted a walk-on from David Bowie; this one gets Sting, which charitably sums up the step-down in quality.

And yet what "Zoolander 2" lacks in creativity it occasionally almost makes up for in superweirdness. Here's a movie that kicks off with a 9/11 joke, crafts a dense and bizarre mythology about models and ends with one character dating Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai.

It keeps on piling on silliness (and famous faces) in the hopes that quantity equals quality. Eventually — as with "Dirty Grandpa" — the pure commitment to being stupid pays off in a sense: Assaulting viewers with failed jokes creates a form of Stockholm Syndrome. As the movie soldiers on, you might find yourself laughing, but you may never remember why. MP

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First dates on Valentine's

Valentine's Day dread is out and first dates with Cupid as your wingman are in. According to a Zoosk study, 75 percent of singles would be more likely to say "yes" to a first date on Valentine's Day.

This is a major shift from years past. When I started helping singles date online in 2009, they tended to avoid logging into their dating profiles for the entire week. But with apps, people aren't afraid to meet on a whim (or on a holiday). So even though Valentine's Day is near, keep swiping!

When you're meeting for the first time on Valentine's, planning is the most important way to make it a success. Not because you need a fancy reservation, quite the opposite — you want to ensure things stay casual.

Here are my do's and don'ts to help your first date on the 14th turn into a second one later in the week.

Keep the mood casual and fun for a successful Valentine's date. ISTOCK

Go on a day date
Since Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday, make daytime plans. You won't run into as many couples during the day ... which means it'll be less likely that you'll encounter someone else's proposal.

Do an activity together
Counteract the seriousness of the holiday by doing something fun for both of you, like trivia night or karaoke. It will be more spontaneous, even if you planned it a few days in advance.

Gag gifts only, please
Treat a first date on Valentine's Day like any other first date — no gifts or flowers. Unless of course, you're

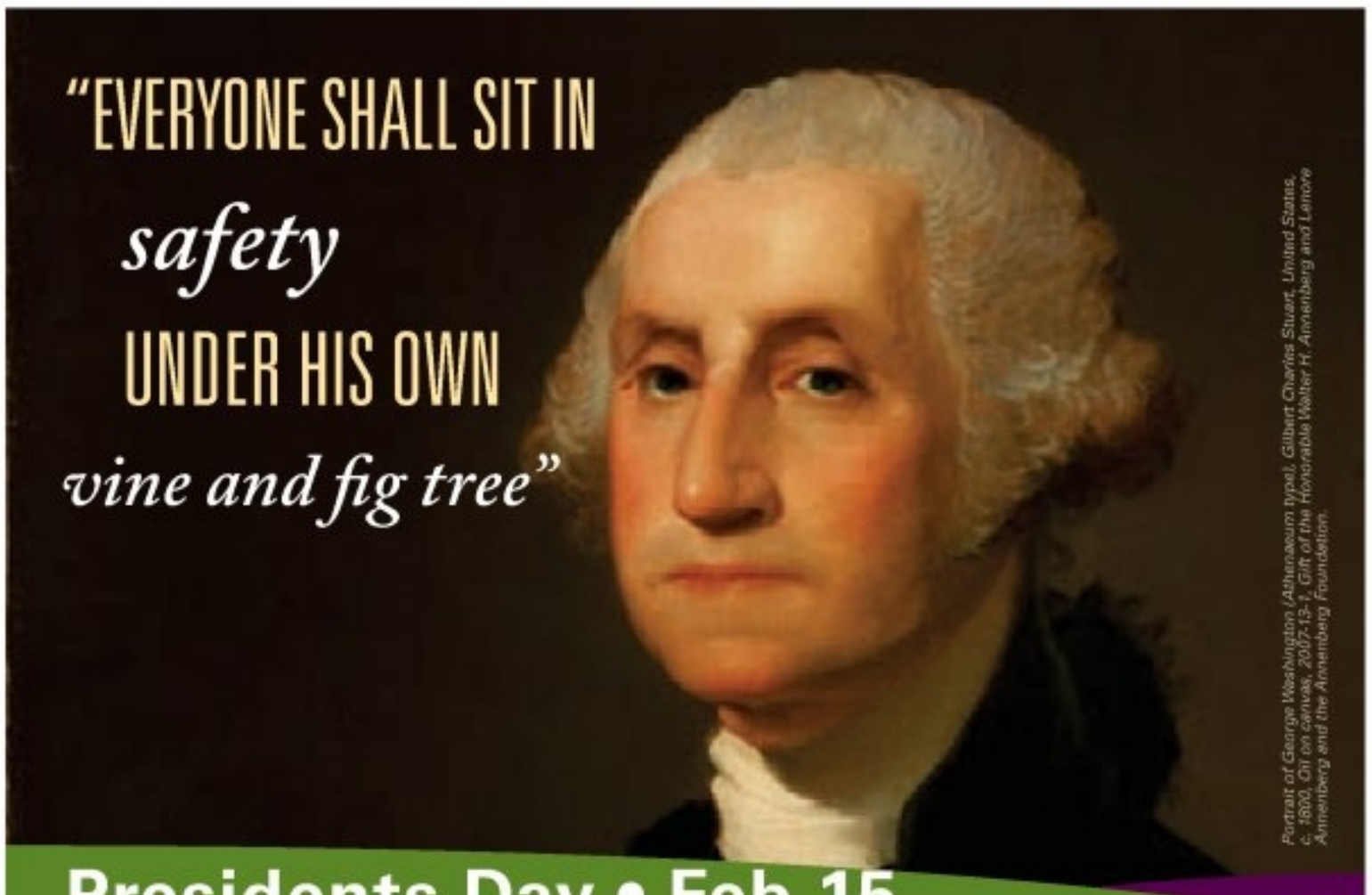
'WHERE TO INVADE NEXT'

Director: Michael Moore
Genre: Documentary
Rating: R

• • • • •

Michael Moore's first doc in six years, "Where to Invade Next" is a return to his more modest, and arguably more devastating, early days, like "TV Nation" and "The Awful Truth." Back then, he'd hammer away at tiny injustices rather than ones perhaps too big for him, like gun control, health care and George W. Bush. Here he globetrots, picking out social services done better elsewhere than here: copious vacation time in Italy, lavish school lunches in France, free women's health clinics in Tunisia. Detractors have been quick to point out that not all of his math adds up. But it's not meant as cold hard science but as a utopian thought experiment, asking us to imagine a country that cares more for the happiness of its denizens. It wouldn't be a Michael Moore joint if it wasn't often simplified or mawkish, but it's still like seeing an old friend. MATT PRIGGE

"EVERYONE SHALL SIT IN *safety* UNDER HIS OWN *vine and fig tree*"



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LAURIE DAVIS

Single and Swiping

Laurie Davis is the founder of eFlirt, an online dating concierge service, and the best-selling author of "Love @ First Click: The Ultimate Guide to Online Dating."

bringing something funny to break the ice, like a grade school-style Valentine.

Don't force a connection

A first date on Valentine's Day may be a meet-cute, but don't create unrealistic expectations. Since your date falls on the Hallmark holiday, you may find yourself more hopeful that things will work out.

Sometimes, when my clients get overly excited about a match, they don't end up happy with the date because they went in expecting something spectacular. So when you're walking out the door, try to remember that ultimately, Valentine's is just another day on the calendar.

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Michael Moore heads abroad in "Where to Invade Next." MICHAEL MOORE

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Screw cupid

The month of hearts and flowers can be exhausting. Here's four ways to get out and get down as a single.

KATE BARRINGTON
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

In case you hadn't noticed, it's Valentine's season, the magical time of year that brings us nonstop jewelry ads and push notifications for romantic getaways.

But this year, forget lying on your sofa with a pint of ice cream and a fifth of vodka binge watching "The Bachelor." Instead try one of these ideas for embracing your solo status:

Throw a party

Why should couples have all the fun? Get your friends together for a blowout they'll remember (or not) for a long time. Play Bey all day. Invite guests to bring a themed dish (Bittersweet and Sour Chicken, anyone?), and award a prize to the cleverest entry. And to drink? Single malt, naturally!

Challenge yourself

Have you always wanted to learn Italian, take up kickboxing or run a marathon, but never seemed to have time when you were half of a couple? Being single means you can invest in yourself. Deal sites like Groupon and Living Social make taking the first step toward a lifelong ambition more affordable than ever. And the empowerment of accomplishment will boost your self-confidence — which is, coincidentally, very attractive.

Find your happy place

Throughout history, people have sought to bring the outdoors inside, from water features to houseplants. It should come as no surprise, then, that research has proven the restorative power of nature. Hike along the Wissahickon, spend an afternoon at Adventure Aquarium or let the stress slip away at Longwood Gardens. Just because it's cold doesn't mean you can't enjoy Mother Nature's mood-boosting benefits.

Spread the love

Sometimes, we're so wrapped up in our own problems, we forget that there are others in need of a friend or a helping hand. Make February the month for giving back. Get together with a lonely neighbor. Volunteer at the local animal rescue or soup kitchen. Thank your fifth-grade teacher. Call your mom. Reaching out not only brightens someone else's day, but yours as well.

Nature is a pick-me-up, so get outside! ALL PHOTOS ISTOCK

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76ers can't close games, growing pains continue

The 76ers could, with some better play in the final minutes of games, have a half dozen more wins this season.

ANDY JASNER
@AndyJasner
sports@metro.us

The 76ers limped into the All-Star break after blowing double-digit leads to the Clippers and Kings.

At 8-45, the Sixers need a rest. They'll get an extended vacation until next Friday, which is rare in the NBA. This young group has been through plenty of growing pains. Two hard lessons were learned in the last two games at the Wells Fargo Center.

The Sixers need to figure out a way to close out a game.

In year three of the massive rebuild, wins have been rare — 45, to be exact since coach Brett Brown took over under the direction of general manager Sam Hinkie.

Despite the losses, Brown remains remarkably positive.

"Not one of us here could, I don't think, look at our team and not be so convinced we're a lot different than we were in early December," Brown said.

How different?

"You see Jerami Grant blossoming right before everybody's eyes," Brown said. "You see Nerlens [Noel] and Jahlil [Okafor] doing a little bit better playing together. That pairing, I think, is growing. I think Nik [Stauskas] and Robert [Covington] are starting to come of age with that two-way commitment. All over the place, I feel like there's certainly growth."

"We are seeing results even if the wins are coming along as easily. We have to keep pushing." Nik Stauskas

Noel and Okafor will have a chance for extended growth as part of All-Star Weekend in Toronto. But Noel was a late scratch against the Kings with right knee patellar tendinitis and his status for Friday's Rising Stars Challenge is questionable. Okafor is expected to play.

"I think anytime you can go into a gym and sort of just see the mannerisms and demeanor and how other elite players and NBA All-Stars, how they interact with fans, carry themselves, I think there's a disposition that those great players present with," Brown said. "I think they carry themselves by and large with an element of class. I think for him to get up there is a good thing. I think he should enjoy the weekend and take it all in from that perspective as much as playing."

Okafor had 26 points and 10 rebounds against the Kings while battling emerging All-Star DeMarcus Cousins.

Cousins ultimately helped his team to a road win, but Okafor tied his career high in scoring and showed tremendous growth in his overall game.

"I think Okafor has very good footwork and has [great] small-man skills in a big man's body," Kings coach George Karl said. "Obviously, he's having statistically a very strong season. I think every week or every 10 games it seems like he's becoming more influential and more responsible."

The second half of the season — rather, a 29-game sprint — will begin next Friday at New Orleans. It won't be easy. Nothing comes easy to the Sixers. They'll be there ready to work.

Brett Brown is optimistic despite the Sixers' 8-45 record. GETTY IMAGES

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NBA trade rumors: Are 76ers' Noel, Okafor on the block?

The Sixers have been linked to players like Jeff Teague, Julius Randle and Jabari Parker with the deadline a week away.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

The Sixers' most valuable trade chips are a pair of 6-foot-11 centers, one of whom isn't yet old enough to order a beer (but is old enough to wrack up speeding tickets).

Jahlil Okafor leads the Sixers, as well as all NBA rookies, in scoring while Nerlens Noel leads the team in rebounds and steals per game (and trails for the lead in blocked shots by .02 per game).

Would Philly part with one, or both, of these parts as the NBA draft lottery approaches with the 76ers currently in position to get the most pingpong balls?

According to reports from several outlets, most notably Keith Pompey of The Philadelphia Inquirer, the Sixers have been in talks with the Atlanta Hawks who intend to overhaul their roster at the deadline. Specifically, two point guards – Jeff Teague and Dennis Schroder – are at the top of Philly's wish list.

Getting a top notch veteran guard and leader could be exactly what the Sixers need moving forward.

Eventually, whether it is at the trade deadline or not, the Sixers need to make some kind of move. They have Okafor and Noel on the roster right now, with another big man Joel Embiid still on the mend, Dario Saric overseas and as many as three first-round picks coming in the June draft.

95.1
THE SIXERS AVERAGE THE LEAST POINTS PER GAME IN THE NBA.

But it might happen later rather than sooner.

According to Pompey and the Inquirer, the source said the Sixers have not made a trade offer for either of the two. Multiple league sources said they don't expect the Sixers to make a serious push for one of the point guards before the Feb. 18 trade deadline.

Will the Sixers be big players in the fast-approaching NBA trade deadline? GETTY IMAGES

Philly clearly has a problem with too many centers on the roster. They are also lacking a true power forward, as well as solid wing-man play.

Noel has been mused about in other trade rumors. Several Lakers outlets in L.A. are spouting the possibility that the Sixers swap Noel for Julius Randle and Jordan Clarkson. He has also been mentioned as a possibly swapee for Milwaukee's Jabari Parker (citing that the Bucks are also having issues with players playing out of position and without chemistry).

One thing is certain, this year's trade deadline will test the creativity and resolve of Sam Hinkie, Jerry Coangelo and company.

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B111 - O'connor, Paul • C138 - Weaver, Krystal • C177 - Anderson, Beverly C179 - Mcshane, Joseph • C198 - Hamri, Nabil

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2062 - Strobel, lori • 2076 - Harrison, Staci
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C027 - Jackson, Tyonna • C135 - Johnson-Curtis, Sharesa • D005 - robinson brown, charrele • D075 - Love-Robinson, Tiffany • D105 - Good, Lawrence D301 - Coleman, Yvette • E155 - Lesko, Robert • E260 - Stroyls, Thomas

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E207 - Willkomm, Scott • F330 - Morrison, Eve

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A074 - Amalvert, Anthony • A093 - Conteh, Zainab • A103 - Lofton, Aaron • A125 - Kamara, Abdul • A140 - Brown, Terrance A162 - Gordies, Carl • A168 - Schriver, Toni • B192 - Wilson, Dana • B221 - Pressley, Christopher • B251 - Wallace, LaShell B258 - Hodges, Bertram • B268 - Blackus, Richard • B277 - Lewis, Brandyne • B296 - Avery, Chaya • B309 - Murray, Ida B319 - Anderson, James • B349 - Davis, Tammie • B366 - Gans, Vincent • B425 - Pettit, Larissa • B440 - Bryant, Tavianna B449 - Hamri, Nabil • B471 - Coleman, Kyrie • B496 - Maples, Shaidene • C576 - Smith Hines, Gillian • C590 - Pastors, Gloria C664 - Boyd, Rose • C685 - Bright, Krista • C699 - Johnson, Romey • C702 - Hall, Tiffany • C819 - Robinson, Christopher C912 - Wise, Sylvaine • C914 - Reed, Mary

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A107 - Richard, Danielle • A113 - Cole, Marvin • A238 - Peaschack, Robert • A501 - Jones, Shanita A608 - Noel, Joanne • B3009 - CRAWFORD, DAMON • C5007 - Brooks, Annette

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1532 - Allison, Laura

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Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Self-Service Storage Facility Act, Pennsylvania Statutes, Title 73, Chapter 26 § 1901 et seq., a public auction will take place on **2/25/2016**, at the below-listed Public Storage facilities, for the following units, the contents of which shall be sold to satisfy the owner's lien. **Public Storage Located At, 2112 W. Main Street, Norristown, PA 19403 at 10:30AM 610-382-1512.**

1010 - Moody, Christopher • 1083 - Wilder, Adrienne • 1134 - Ledebur, Alexandra • 1160 - Mccann, Christine 3024 - DeVuono, William • 3136 - Babb, Karen • 3147 - Robinson, Bernadette • D1024 - Burgos, Nelson

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A105 - Jones, Jessica • A144 - Harley, Rudolph • A146 - Cooper, Regina • A201 - American Emerald, Awards Foundation A216 - Gripper, Naima • B323 - Alexander, Ada • B334 - BRAWLEY, TAMMIE • B343 - Pratt, Bisco B405 - Buchanan, Walter • C501 - Walker, Manuel • C642 - Brown, Christopher • C649 - Greene, Jamal E1047 - Brown, Terrance • E919 - Lowe, Ronald • F1150 - Greene, Willie • F1261 - Green Caldwell, Robyn

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Flyers face do-or-die stretch of games this weekend

The window of opportunity is closing quickly for the Flyers. GETTY IMAGES

The Flyers have a very important trio of games this weekend and Tuesday. Going up against division foes the Devils, Rangers and Devils again (with both teams ahead in the standings), Philly can really make headway in their effort to get back into the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Adversely, if they fall against the Devils at home Saturday (1 p.m. on CSN), Sunday at Madison Square Garden (at 7:30 p.m. on NBCSN) and Tuesday in New Jersey (at 7 p.m. on CSN), they could very well find themselves deeply entrenched in a battle for draft position, not playoff position.

Recent games have been a mixed bag for the Flyers, with solid winning efforts mixed with a mini-losing streak lowlighted by a 4-1 loss to the Ducks at home back on Tuesday. The Flyers need to keep pushing forward.

"I think we have to be mature enough to be able to put those games behind us and move on," Claude Giroux said.

Philadelphia has been much better against the east than the west, sporting a dreary 8-9-3 record (1-6-3 against the Pacific) this season. Luckily for them, not only can they control their own fate by taking care of business against Eastern Conference foes, they also play their next six games against teams in the East before hosting Minnesota on Feb. 25.

"I don't think that has anything to do with it," Jakub Voracek said of the disparity between wins against the east and west. "We need to find a way to win against who we are playing." EVAN MACY

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WORCESTER COUNTY JUVENILE COURT
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TO: **Manuel O. Ocasio-Martinez**

A petition has been presented to this court by the **DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (Worcester)**, seeking, as to the following child(ren), **Angelika M. Martinez-Ocasio**, that said child(ren) be found in need of care and protection and committed to the Department of Children and Families. The court may dispense the rights of the person named herein to receive notice of or to consent to any legal proceeding affecting the adoption, custody, or guardianship or any other disposition of the child(ren) named herein, if it finds that the child(ren) is/are in need of care and protection and that the best interests of the child(ren) would be served by said disposition.

You are hereby ORDERED to appear in this court, at the court address set forth above, on the following date and time: **3/22/2016, 11:00 AM Pre Trial Conference (CR/CV).**

You may bring an attorney with you. If you have a right to an attorney and if the court determines that you are indigent, the court will appoint an attorney to represent you.

If you fail to appear, the court may proceed on that date and any date thereafter with a trial on the merits of the petition and an adjudication of this matter.

For further information call the Office of the **Clerk-Magistrate** at 508-831-2000.

WITNESS: Hon. Carol A. Erskine FIRST JUSTICE

DATE ISSUED: 1/14/2016

Craig D. Smith
Clerk-Magistrate

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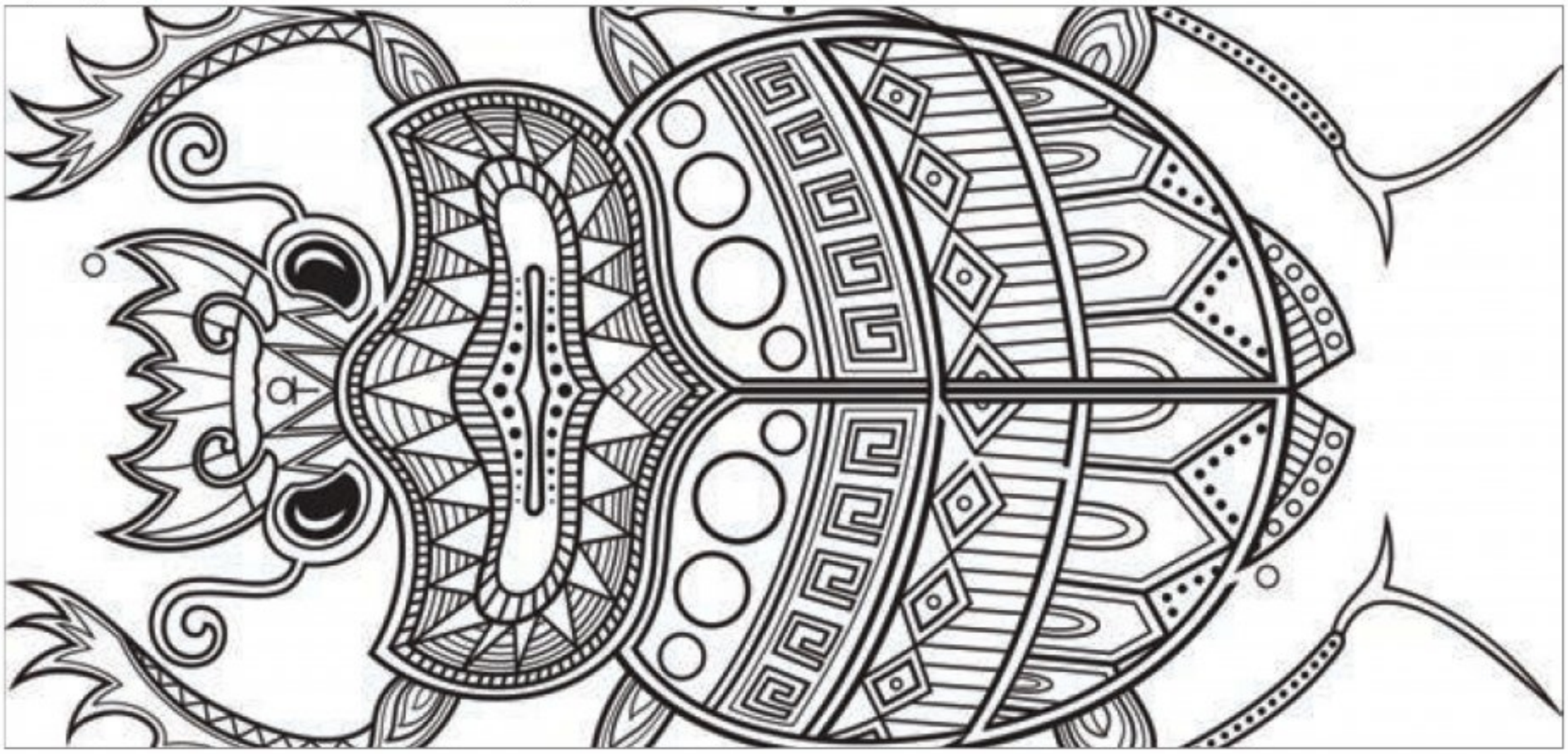

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2	9		5			3		
				2			9	
4		1		5				2
	6						1	
3				6		7		4
	4			9				
		2			5		4	8
		5			2		6	7

hard

8		5	9				1	
7						9		3
		6	3		5			
5			2	3	8		9	
				7				
	6		5	9	1			7
			8		3	2		
3		2						1
	5				4	8		9

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Aries Protect your heart and control your emotions. Making assumptions will lead to mistakes. Take time to assess and formulate what you want, and do your best to make it happen.

Taurus If you think about possibilities, you will have an eye-opening experience. The chance to make a dream come true and share it with someone special is within reach.

Gemini Don't let uncertainty confuse you. Think matters through and determine the changes that will bring the highest returns, and start heading in that direction.

Cancer You may not like what someone else is doing, but that shouldn't stop you from heading in the direction that suits you best. Let your desire for love lead the way.

Leo Take on some responsibility if you want to prove that you can make a difference. A chance to show off your skills will result in recognition and a reputation for getting things done.

Virgo Take the initiative to let someone know how much you care. Offering some incentive to others will ensure that you get the help you need to put your plans in motion.

Libra Don't let the actions or words of others get to you. An intelligent approach to the things you want to do or see happen will give you the strength and courage to proceed.

Scorpio Do everything in your power to achieve your goals. A physical challenge will allow you to step up and show everyone what you are capable of handling.

Sagittarius You've got to rethink your strategy if you don't want someone to criticize your choices. Too much of anything will lead to trouble. Move forward with compassion.

Capricorn Your ability to take advantage of whatever situation you face will give you a competitive edge. Romance will bring you stability and enhance your personal life.

Aquarius A dedicated, disciplined approach to getting what you want will far exceed attempts to bully someone into doing things your way. If you avoid arguments, you'll have no regrets.

Pisces How you present yourself and what you have to offer will make a difference. If you are responsible and help those in need, you will be compensated. EUGENIA LAST

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13 Viking name
14 Ventricle neighbor
15 Bud holder
16 Explorer — Erikson
17 Bramble
18 Great gusto
19 Cream puff
21 Pond maker
22 Lemon peel
23 Fossilized plants
25 Smidgens
27 Great brightness
31 Chin features
35 Gaslight and Big Band
36 Plenty, to a poet
38 — incognita
39 Tolerated
40 Monet contemporary
42 Friction easer
43 Good conductor
46 Start all over
47 Machu Picchu founder
48 Pale
50 Gave money back
52 Kind of ticket
54 Foolhardy
55 She loved Lennon
58 Float like a cork
60 Sawmill output
64 Revival shout
65 Rock tumbler stone
67 Oaf
68 Smaller than compact
69 Well-known
70 Ferber or Millay
71 Portico
72 Thin Man's terrier
73 Big bucks?
12 What libraries do
14 Rubbed against
20 Ca++, for one
24 Solitude enjoyer
26 Diner sandwich
27 Alabama town
28 Groom carefully
29 Starbucks order
30 Pilot's OK
32 Palm branch
33 In a — (quickly)
34 Dinner course
37 Heron or egret
41 Overnight guest's spot (2 wds.)
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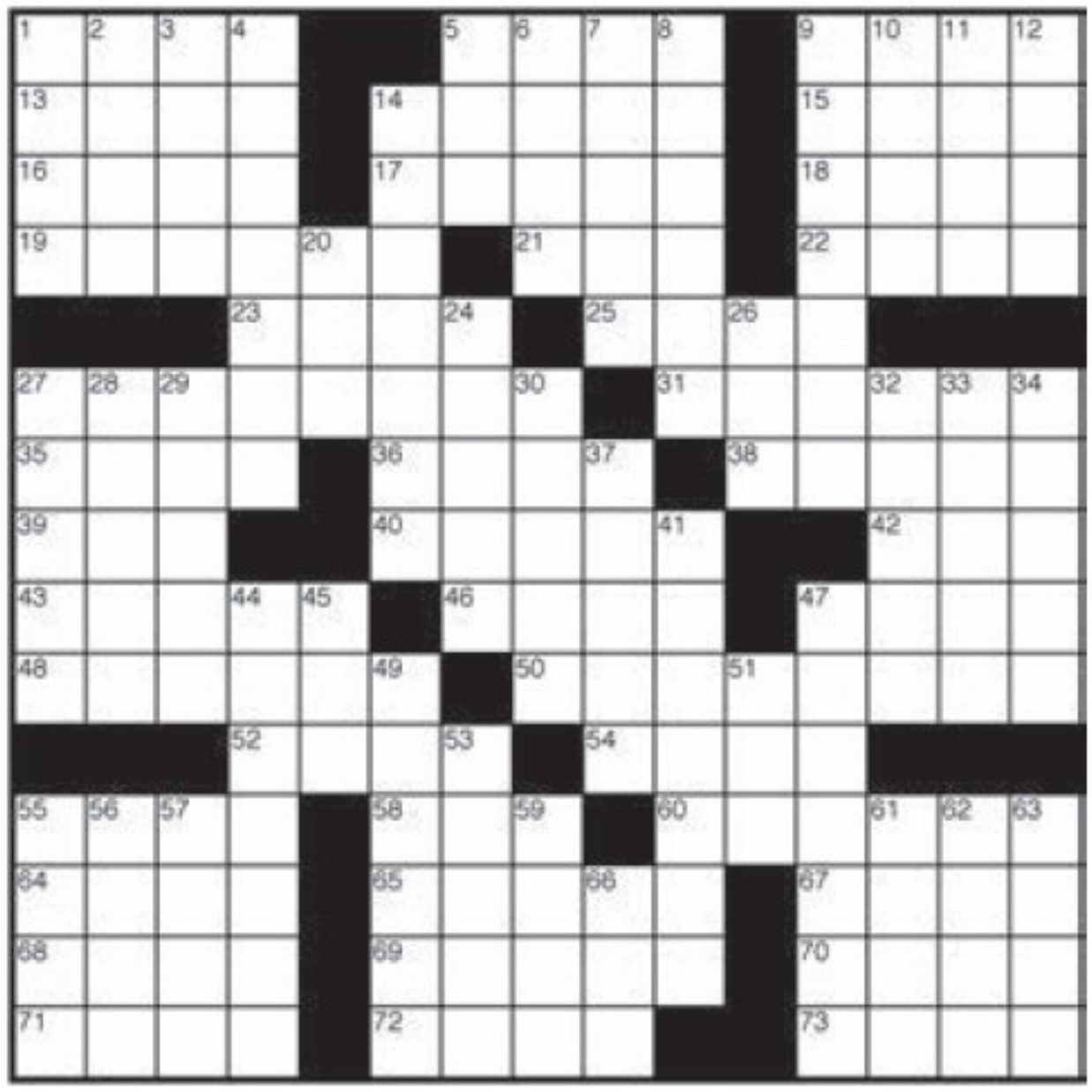
45 Kind of detector
47 Got some air
49 Bathhouse
51 Canteen initials
53 Alligators on shirts
55 Edible tubers
56 Leave out
57 Vegas game
59 Fiberglass bundle
61 Grabbed a cab
62 Kind of buggy
63 Galaxy unit
66 Drink with scones



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